

No. 4

Winter 2024/25

KIRTON quarterly

a magazine for the Crediton community

INSIDE:

257 new homes on their way

Crediton's railway history

Festive shopping tips!

and LOTS MORE

delivered free to at least 3,800 homes, shops and businesses in Crediton



CREDITON

TOWN COUNCIL presents...



Saturday 30 November
Credition Town Square
13.00-18.00

Christmas market: hot and cold food, drinks, gifts, bar
Live bands, entertainers, free Santa's grotto, kids' activities



From the heart of Devon

sponsored by



& Late Night Shopping every Friday in November!

treats live music drinks mince pies deals entertainers

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LOCAL**

The smells of Crediton

What's carried on the breeze tells us much about our town and our rural hinterland. Everyone in Crediton has their favourite aromas - seasonal ones, daily experiences and the occasional shocking pong.

Some we take for granted. We're so used to diesel and petrol fumes, for example, that we scarcely register them on the High Street, though 100 years ago the smell of petroleum might have been as exciting as the motor-coach or private car itself.

People seem to recall bad smells more than nice ones. Residents and shoppers (especially in the vicinity of Morrison's car park) routinely complain of the odour released by Crediton Dairy, which is something to do with treating milk effluent before it goes down the drain. But the sweet sensations (mashed plant stalks and treacle?) from Crediton Milling Company are surely delicious, and one resident says how much she loves the autumnal smell of apple wafting over from Sandford Orchards's cider-making plant.

We register when lorries are transporting livestock down the High Street by the distinctive scents of sheep, chickens, cattle or pigs on board. But there's one small truck labelled Westcountry Casualties which plies its sorry trade through Crediton on its way to an incinerator where 'fallen' animals are taken. The stink of rotting animal is putrid: could it not choose a different route?

The Mid Devon countryside produces a familiar smell that blows across from the west when contractors are spreading slurry over the fields. What's worse is when they empty out the waste from chicken houses.

Some smells are necessarily of our own making. On Lords Meadow's playing fields footballers, spectators and dog-walkers will recognise the dull odour of South West Water's treatment works at the bottom of the industrial estate, where the grimy contents of Crediton's sinks, baths, showers and toilets all intermingle.

But there are two sensations that are curiously missing from Crediton's olefactory jigsaw. Where is the aroma of roasting coffee beans from the Crediton Coffee Company? Surely everyone enjoys this even if they don't like drinking coffee, but apparently they're not permitted to release this into the air, which seems crazy: what better way to promote the Town Square as an inviting venue to hang out?

And where are the nostril-clearing fragrances of menthol or eucalyptus you'd expect from Ernest Jackson Ltd. (behind the High Street) which manufactures medicinal confectionery (cough sweets, basically) including their world-famous Victory V lozenges. Why can't we enjoy their active ingredients for free?!

Shops, schools, churches, sports clubs and the leisure centre all have their distinctive flavours. There's nothing nicer than the smell of new-mown grass around the parks or even the sorrowful decay of leaves in autumn. On our walks around town we can treat ourselves to the spicy tang of hot-food take-aways, and a visit to a bakery or wholefood store is always a satisfying experience. Hairdressers, charity shops, the library and bookshops all have their reassuring scents.

Whether the same can be said for the pungent whiff of marijuana, emanating from numerous domestic properties in Crediton town, is a matter of personal preference.

How to tell if you need an accountant

Managing finances can be overwhelming, especially as your financial situation becomes more complex. Many people wonder if they need an accountant and whether hiring one will save them money.

When should you consider hiring an accountant?

1. **Business ownership:** If you own a business, an accountant is almost indispensable. They handle bookkeeping, tax preparation, and financial planning, ensuring you are compliant with tax laws and allowing you to focus on growing your business.
2. **Major life changes:** Significant life events such as marriage or the birth of a child can complicate your financial situation. An accountant can provide advice on how these changes affect your taxes and overall financial strategy.
3. **Investments and real estate:** If you have significant investments or own rental properties an accountant can help you navigate the intricacies of managing the associated taxes and records, ensuring you're taking advantage of all possible deductions and credits.
4. **Time constraints:** If you find yourself too busy to keep up with your finances an accountant can save you time and stress, allowing you to focus on other important aspects of your life or business.

How can an accountant save you money?

1. **Maximizing available reliefs:** Accountants have in-depth knowledge of the tax rules and can identify deductions and credits.
2. **Avoiding costly mistakes:** Mistakes on your tax return can result in penalties, interest, and even audits. An accountant ensures your returns are accurate, helping you avoid costly errors.
3. **Strategic tax planning and advice:** An accountant can help you plan for your accounts and tax returns so you can make informed decisions that reduce your tax liability and maximise your profits.
4. **Business efficiency:** For business owners, accountants can streamline financial operations, improving efficiency and profitability.

Determining whether you need an accountant depends on a range of factors including your financial complexity. Accountants offer valuable financial advice to help you navigate the complexities of the financial world, provide peace of mind and help you retain as much of your hard-earned money as possible.

This guide is kindly provided by Westcotts accountants. (Other excellent accountants in Crediton are also available!)

Crediton Town Council

Christmas season

Christmas in Crediton celebrations start even earlier this year – there's Late Night Shopping *every Friday* in November. Musicians, entertainers, food, discounts and special events in shops across the town centre for you to come and enjoy. The Christmas lights will be switched on at 5pm on Saturday 30 November, but come down to the Town Square from 1pm for music, market, activities, entertainers, food & drink, and more. PLUS, new this year, Santa's Grotto!

This community event could not happen without your generous help and sponsorship. We have had offers of support from Ernest Jackson, Unique Sweets & Treats, Paint Pots of Devon, The Ship Hotel, Adams Home Hardware, Hotchkiss Warburton, Helmores, Revive Beauty & Hair Design, and Nikki Blanchford Hair & Beauty. If you would like to get involved please contact Jo Davey j.davey@crediton.gov.uk. Together, we are creating the biggest and best Christmas in Crediton ever – see you there!

Budget planning

November also marks the start of the budgeting process for the 2025-26 financial year, and we will be holding a number of drop-in budgeting workshops, the aim being to give you the opportunity to help shape our annual budget. We deliver a range of services, and we would like to know what you think is important. During these sessions we will also be looking at the Devon Countywide Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) public consultation, as well as discussing future land use in Crediton. We hope you'll be able to come and speak with us at one of them.

Old Landscore School and Crediton Youth Service

On 1 November, Old Landscore School closed for the winter to prepare for some renovation work. We have draft plans and have started putting together the business case to enhance the building. Town Council meeting venues will change, so please check the Agendas on our website.

This means Crediton Youth Service will be delivered slightly differently. After-school on Tuesdays there will be a Youth Drop-in from 3.30 until 6pm with activities and food for young people aged 11+. On Wednesday evenings Project Night (including D&D and Art Club) will continue as before from 6.30 until 8.30 pm. Both sessions will be held at The Hub, 8 North Street (opposite the Town Square). The Youth Work team will also continue with their school outreach sessions where they visit both QE sites on Tuesday lunchtimes.

Grants to community organisations

This November, the Grants Sub-Committee will be setting its recommendation for the 2025-26 grants budget. This process involves considering the value of all grant applications received, and recommending a grants budget based on the those approved, but still subject to the budget approved by Full Council in early 2025.

However, the budget is usually set with an additional buffer to allow for ad hoc applications that come in throughout the year. So, although the official deadline of 30 September has passed, if you are a Crediton-based community organisation looking for financial support, please check out our website www.crediton.gov.uk/grants.

Crediton Town Council CONTINUED

Crediton Urban Taskforce [CUT!]

[CUT!] is still working hard to improve the overall look of our town – with volunteers including Crediton Brownies back in September! The Town Council is supporting its work with a £1500 budget allocation (for 2024-25) to cover tools and equipment, printing and refreshments.

'Isn't this why we pay council tax?' some people have said to us. We understand the frustration. Despite Devon County Council and Mid Devon District Council previously carrying out services like this, budget cuts mean this is no longer possible. Services such as weeding are 'non-statutory' services and this has inevitably led to reduced time and resources – sometimes their total withdrawal.

The Town Council could take this on, however this would require an increase in the town Precept. Decisions such as these will be discussed at the budgeting workshops, open to all members of the public. In the meantime, the [CUT!] schedule continues, with action days taking place on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10am - 12. If you would like to get involved, please visit the [CUT!] webpage for details on how to join. www.crediton.gov.uk/Facilities/Crediton-Urban-Taskforce-CUT-

Crediton's floral recognition!

Finally, we are delighted to announce that Crediton received a Silver Gilt Award at the South West in Bloom Awards Ceremony in Bath, as well as overall Winner in the Pennant Town North & South category. Certificates were also awarded to the nine It's Your Neighbourhood entries. Thank you to the volunteers creating beautiful displays for all to enjoy - and everyone that got involved in the July clean-up.

2025 DATES

8 May: VE Day 80, Crediton Town Square
All welcome, cream teas, Town Band & activities with a vintage theme.

8 June: Big Boniface Bash, Newcombes Meadow.

12 July: Crediton Food Festival, Crediton Town Square.

Hundreds of visitors annually celebrate the Christmas lights switch-on



Crediton Brownies volunteer their support for a [CUT!] session on The Square in September

Ultrafast or Superfast?

What's the difference?! Virgin or BT Openworld? Did we ask for all our pavements to be dug up by two separate companies competing to offer us broadband services? We can expect contractors clogging up our streets for some months more, along with white vans, mini-diggers, tarmac-pummelling machines and workers in hi-vis jackets.

Retail revolution

Two big players Lidl and McDonalds will shortly open their doors (and, in the latter's case, a 24-hour serving hatch for drive-thru customers) welcoming customers from Crediton, nearby villages and commuters off the A377.

Popular café and delicious cake-maker Co-Co's has expanded into larger premises, and is now drawing lots of customers even early on Sunday mornings!

Meanwhile further up the High Street some residents have expressed curiosity as to why a newly fitted-out pizza shop has been offered for sale even before opening.

Contrary to disinformation on social media and general gossip Eakers and Lewis's two long-standing local household names tell KQ they have NO INTENTION OF CLOSING any time soon! May they long remain popular choices for DIY and domestic appliances!

And Crediton residents have never had it so good when it comes to hair care, skin treatments, massages, pampering, and general body adornment. We have

a growing number of barbers and hairdressers, a nail parlour, several beauty consultants and a fine selection of tattoo studios.

Charity, second-hand and collectibles shops remain in abundance, with Devon Air Ambulance replacing the ELF shop recently. Air Ambulance tote bag, diary, notebook, or model helicopter anyone?

We also have lots of hot-food takeaways, some great cafes and 'wet' pubs (those that don't do food) - and enough convenience stores for the time being.



Lidl rises over Exhibition Road rugby pitches and allotments. Photo: Elwyn Thomas (above); and (below) a digger sits on top of a burger-shaped mound of soil on site of new drive-thru McDonalds. Photos taken mid-October.





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Who will fund Holy Cross roof repairs?

KQ invited the Governors of Holy Cross (Crediton parish church) to update residents on the state of the church roof and the Governors' efforts to raise funds for its replacement – towards which the sum of £171K had been raised against a target of £2 million, before the Governors removed the noticeboard charting the appeal's progress.

David Brassington, Warden of the Governors, assures that there is no funding crisis, and states: *"The roof repair appeal has been absorbed into the Holy Cross Heritage Project. Working closely with a firm of architects the Project Team is planning to improve and develop the resources and facilities which the church building can offer and is looking to apply for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), as well as pursuing a match-funding route with other Trusts."*

"The four core components of the project are: an archive/museum, new toilets, a servery and repairs to the roof. Included in these plans is better use of the church space as a multifunctional environment for wider community use, improved heating and the fitting of solar panels to the new roof. Regarding the current condition of the church roof, the recent quinquennial [5-yearly] inspection has concluded that general maintenance has been ongoing and prevented significant deterioration in its fabric. The project is proceeding through various phases, and the Project Team and Architects are drawing up the Expression of Interest (EOI) for approval by the NLHF prior to any funding applications going ahead."

However, since Holy Cross church belongs to 'the people of Crediton' and not, like nearly all other churches in the UK, to the Church of England, what would happen if the Governors were unable to raise the huge sums required to replace the cracked lead roof? If the Governors were judged insolvent at any time in the future, would the £2M+ cost of a new roof then devolve on to Crediton's residents and council-tax payers?!

Bus driver's toilet agony

A driver of one of our local buses, caught short while parked up near St Lawrence Green, felt compelled to go behind a nearby tree. A disapproving passer-by who spotted the act reported him to head office and he was suspended from his job for two weeks.

The former public conveniences at St Lawrence Green, converted to hot food takeaway (first gourmet burgers, now pizza) were required as part of the planning consent to provide public access to the single (external facing) toilet during opening hours. While this didn't provide all-day access it was no doubt useful to some. Staff there say it can be opened on request when they're there.

Elsewhere in the town centre things are no more promising. The public toilets at Union Road (Crediton Town Council's) are usually shut - or assumed to be, which comes to the same thing – while those by the Market Street car-park (Mid Devon District Council's) are considered unsavoury by some visitors.

The former Wetherspoon's informally let people use their loos, but the new pub

owners are less inclined to lend their toilet rolls, soap and water supplies to non-patrons. Costa, also on the High Street, is well used to desperate visitors using their facilities without buying any refreshments. But it's tricky for pubs and cafes to turn away those desperate for a wee. What can be done?

Waiting for bus shelter at Redlands

Recent town council minutes suggest that the matter is being addressed and visitors to the doctor's and other local premises may not have to stand waiting for too much longer.

Devon's Neighbourhood Highways Officer has confirmed DCC would be installing a bus shelter in the location. However *'No time-frame [has been] given for the work to be completed as there had been reports of issues with drainage.'*

Says one exasperated resident: why can't they just pick up the (now redundant) bus shelter on Exeter Road above Tesco's and plonk it down opposite the surgery?

Lloyds Bank delayed closure

Our last bank standing will finally close its doors for the last time on 20th November. Lloyds's closure follows those of Barclays, NatWest and Santander, so we'll have to travel to Exeter to find a bank branch that's still open. The Post Office says it can do most of what the bank offered – take deposits, pay utility bills, issue cash etc. And there will still be cash points around the town, including at big and small Tesco, Morrison's, Post Office and the garage on Exeter Road.

Crediton Courier closes office

Our long-established local newspaper, for many years independently published

before being taken over by the national Tindle Group, has not gone away, but it has closed its High Street office. Its editor Alan Quick and reporter Will Goddard will be present at Crediton Library on Thursdays 2-3pm to discuss adverts and notices, editorial etc. The Courier is published every Thursday and costs £1.50.

Looking ahead . . .

St John Passion – music to cure blindness in India. 15th February, 6pm: Holy Cross parish church.

A joint (and international) performance for an excellent cause will be well worth supporting - and musically rewarding throughout the two-hour masterpiece.

Coleford-based musician and violin teacher Francisca van Holthoorn has enlisted musician friends from The Netherlands along with excellent local musicians to give a performance of the St John Passion, a sacred oratorio by J. S. Bach (first performed in 1724).

The event is to raise funds for Second Sight, a charity which cures and prevents blindness in north-east India.

Dutch tenor Erik Janse will join soloists Tom Norrington, Carolyn Harries, Alice Beverly and Philip Lancaster. Tina Guthrie directs the choir and chamber orchestra specially assembled for the occasion. All are performing for no fee to support the charity.

The organisers are grateful to Gilbert Stephens solicitors for their generous sponsorship. Tickets @ £12 available from Crediton Arts centre. Or via W: ticketsource.co.uk/creditonartscentre

A tour of Crediton Train Station:

*On Sunday 15th September John Heal, born and bred Kirtonian and author of *The Book of Crediton* (Halsgrove, 2004) led an exploration of the railway station for the Crediton Area History & Museum Society as part of the Mid Devon Walking Festival. Around 15 people attended this heritage mini-tour.*

How many have ever ventured to the far end of platform 2 - far beyond where trains come to rest? Here lies evidence, part covered by brambles, of an old siding built to accommodate the broad-gauge tracks envisaged in 1845 for the new railway to be built from Cowley Bridge to Crediton.

Standard-gauge eventually won out, but squabbles between rival railway companies over preferred track width delayed trains for 4 years before the London & South West Railway Co.'s (LSWR) first passenger service arrived in Crediton on 12th May 1851.



Early photo of Crediton station and staff, including horse



Great Crediton Market: cattle (some probably brought by train to Crediton station) on High Street for the annual market.

Images courtesy Crediton Area History & Museum Society.

At the launch party (which had repaired to the Market House pub, now The Three Little Pigs) one speaker declared that Crediton had '*now taken its place on the great arterial communication of England*' although it was not until around 1860 that a Kirtonian might have boarded a carriage in Crediton and not needed to leave their compartment before arriving at Waterloo, London

Over the next decades, shareholders financed the railway extending to the north and west of Crediton so that it was possible by 1890 to reach - via Okehampton or Barnstaple - Plymouth, Bude, Ilfracombe and Lynton. Even the beach at Westward Ho! could be reached on a separate little train departing from Bideford.

The railway at Crediton also enhanced local trade. A cattle dock on the station's southern side enabled animals to be transported from further afield and unloaded for market at Crediton. Many local residents will be familiar with images dating from the 1930s of our High Street packed with Devon cattle at the annual Great Crediton Market held in April from the 14thC until the very last one in 1951. (Regular cattle auctions continued after this date where the Market Street car park is now, until local markets consolidated in Exeter in 1963.)

While trains through Crediton today move only human passengers, including college students, commuters, shoppers and day-trippers to the seaside, wagons back then carried milk churns, coal, corn - and granite from Dartmoor. The activity required sidings, goods yard, stores - and staff. The station employed a dozen men, and a horse to heave trucks on to sidings. Some houses at Fordton were built for railwaymen's families, and a long-gone residence next to the footbridge was the signalman's home. The station master's home is thought to have been one of the red-brick houses nearby on Exeter Road. The former Dartmoor Railway Hotel on Station Road was built later, in the 1860s.

The main station building is said to be a design by the great Isambard Kingdom Brunel, though there's no record of Brunel actually visiting Crediton himself. The engineer in charge of the LSWR's construction was Joseph Locke, whose neglected reputation has been restored by a plaque on platform 1, and the naming of the service road and bus route from the station to Redlands Primary Care and Mole Avon.

Construction work on the railway, including bridges along the way, was done by the local firm of William Berry & Co. (later Berry & Vincent) with materials and workers carried by horse and cart along the excavated route. Incidentally few will be aware that the same route had been envisaged in 1832 for a canal fed by the Yeo river, running to Crediton from Exeter Canal Basin.

Although some original buildings, sidings and sheds have been lost, the waiting room on platform 2 and the 1875 Grade II-listed signal box are rare survivors, now faithfully maintained by the Friends of Crediton Station in something like their original colours. The main station building is now a café run by the Turning Tides project.

While the ticket office still operated, entry to the platforms was only by the station's front door. Railings back then completely prevented any other access to the platforms.

Of former staff, only the signalman's post remains.

As well as working the signals and level crossing, he or she has the curious task of handing over a metal 'token' to each driver of trains proceeding towards Barnstaple, and receiving another back from returning drivers. This somehow ensures that only one train at a time can be on a stretch of single track proceeding west of Crediton.

If this seems a quaint and outdated means of preventing a collision, the existence of 'request' stops along the Barnstaple line amuses first-time travellers still more - especially when they realise that to board a train at Yeoford, for example, you have to wave to the driver to have the train halt for you.

PV

Further reading (available at Crediton Library): *The Book of Crediton*, by John Heal; *Lost Railways of Devon*, by Stan Yorke



Level crossing gates rising in front of Crediton station's signal box

Stone me! I never noticed it

Mystery of standing stone at Downes Head

A few years ago, someone asked me, *"What do you know about that standing stone on the skyline at Downes Head?"* I couldn't believe I'd never noticed it. You could see it from the main road through Crediton. I had to investigate.

Close up, it's quite impressive. About two metres high, on a hilltop. But there's something very odd about it. For one thing, it's not listed on any of the official sites like Heritage Gateway.

So I asked around. *"Ah!"* said a locally-born friend, *"It's said that General Buller buried his favourite old warhorse somewhere on the Downes Estate, but he wouldn't say exactly where. Could that be it?"* I couldn't help wondering why the General – or someone else in on the secret – would have left such an enormous hint. Or why no-one seems to have noticed it until recently. Keep asking.

Another line of enquiry revealed that a farmer who had those fields just a few years ago put up the stone as a memorial to his mother. So not an ancient megalith, then? We like to see and touch monuments which, however obscurely, connect us to people and traditions from the distant past. Being 'new' makes this stone seem inauthentic, inappropriate. A matter of scale, perhaps? Or location? We don't feel the same about smaller stones set up in memory of much-loved relatives, especially if they're in cemeteries.

And now? The stone is still there, but the hedge behind it has been (deliberately?) left to grow taller. It no longer stands out on the skyline. You might be able to see it from a distance, but you'd need a powerful pair of binoculars.

Tony Gale



View to Downes Head from Union Road/East Street.

To reach the standing stone, go up Downeshead Lane (off Mill Street), then follow wooded path and through gate. A little afterwards a grassy path to the right leads to this steep field. The stone is up to the left at the top of the field





Elephant on the Green

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QUIZ – SIGNS, NOTICES & INSCRIPTIONS

Do you recognise these signs, inscriptions and notices around Crediton?
Can you identify their locations? (*Answers on page 36*)



THE NEW WISDOM

**SENDING A LETTER? TAKE
THE TRAIN & SAVE MONEY!**

The price of stamps has gone up again. A first-class stamp is now £1.65 but sending a letter bigger than Standard size/100g weight will cost you £2.60. If you wanted it signed-for at the other end it would be £3.35.

Suppose you wanted to send several pieces of A4 paper (without folding them) to, say, Okehampton it would be quicker and cheaper (with a Senior or other railcard) to take it yourself by train. A Crediton-Okehampton return with railcard is £2.85. The train service to and from Okehampton is hourly.

While you're there, you could visit Okehampton's Lidl, before our Crediton one opens. Or if you're posh, Waitrose. And if you still need Wetherspoon's, The White Hart.

Halloween brings out some spooky sights . . .



*Arachnophobes beware! No wonder this house
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Tractor taking a break outside Kirton Cow and Mucky Mutts

KIRTON QUARTERLY NOTES

Please send items for publication (e-mails preferred) by 15 Dec for the Spring 2025 issue.

If you would like to be involved in the magazine's content, production, advertising or distribution, contact pveclipse@btinternet.com

edited by Paul Vincent

published by Friends of Crediton Library

Information is published in good faith but KQ does not accept responsibility for its accuracy. Opinions expressed are those of individual contributors.

KQ ADVERTISING 2025 issues 5-8

Full page £180 | Half page £90

Quarter page £50 | Eighth page £25*

Advertisers booking all 4 issues in 2025 (and paid in full by end of March) receive 30% discount, with smaller discounts available for 3 or 2 issues during the year. *NB: We are happy to help you prepare a basic design for no extra charge. For artwork specifications please contact pveclipse@btinternet.com

Latest date for artwork for Spring issue is 20th Jan (magazine covering period mid-Feb – end of May)

Welcome to Greater Crediton: the expansion starts here!



New roundabout providing access to new homes at Pedlarspool

A few hundred yards from Crediton, between Pedlarspool Lane and the A3072 to Tiverton near Creedy Bridge, is the site of the housing development to be known as Libbets Grange. Serious security fencing protects the location where 257 new dwellings will soon be built.

The site is currently a field of mud, along with mounds of gravel, mechanical diggers, concrete and plastic drainage pipes and various portakabins for house-builder Bellway's managers and construction workers. Before long the former fields will be home to 500 or more new residents.

As part of the planning agreement for the development, Bellway will contribute £2 million 'towards health, education and travel' including 2.7 acres of land for a new primary school and 21 acres for a new site for Crediton Rugby Club. But curiously the developer's marketing makes no mention of a number of pitches reserved for Gypsy and other traveller communities that it is required to provide . . .

What's in the name? Libbets Grange sounds like it has been dreamed up by Bellway's marketing people - the housing equivalent of Lymeswold cheese?* Grange is a name popular with developers, the term describing a large house with surrounding agricultural buildings and farm-land - though there wasn't such a building here – and Libbet surely refers to Crediton's little-visited well near Church Street. Maybe Bellway struggled to find a name with local relevance: all names associated with General Buller were gobbled

up by the Tarka View estate, and St Boniface-related street names have been used up around Crediton. Perhaps Bellway decided against using the local name Pedlarspool for the development: 'pedlar' might have sounded too poor and itinerant, and 'pool' suggests – ominously and not without reason – a low-lying area prone to getting soggy in wet weather.

In an earlier consultation residents of nearby Sandford were invited to suggest names for the 12 streets within the development. So look out for a possible Upton Hellions Drive, a Pedlars Pool Way or Creedy Bridge Close. The names of former fields Chestnut Field and Surplus Meadow were also suggested, as were Perpetuana and Serge (names of woollen cloth types referencing Sandford's historic weavers), and Kingfisher, Heron and Egret – birds spotted by the nearby Creedy river?

What will the houses be like? Bellway says its new dwellings will be from their Artisan range, designed *'with sustainability and fluidity in mind'*. This apparently means that some will have *'home-working areas,' 'stylish kitchens enhanced by recessed ceiling lighting'* and *'enviable bathroom suites'*.

Who will live there? Bellway says their 'charming' 2, 3, 4, and 5-bedroom homes will appeal to a whole host of customers, including families and first-time buyers. The developer reassures incomers (with a national and/or international lifestyle) that their home will be reached in less than a 30-minute drive of junction 27 of the M5, and that Exeter Airport takes only a little longer to drive to. Lifelong education? Attention is drawn to Crediton's two primary schools and secondary school, along with the proximity of Exeter University.

Leisure and recreation? *'Shobrooke Park, which is around half-a-mile away from the development, is open to visitors throughout the year, and boasts stunning fishing spots, spectacular gardens, and a range of walking trails. Around five minutes' drive away from Libbets Grange is Downes Crediton Golf Club, an 18-hole course set in the Downes Estate parkland that provides the perfect challenge for golfers of all abilities'*.



**Lymeswold: older readers may remember this soft blue brie-style cheese, whose invented name was dreamt up by the dairy industry. Launched in 1982, production ceased 10 years later in the wake of frequent public ridicule, along with competition from German rival Cambozola.*

There won't be a shop to serve the residents of Libbets Grange, but Bellway assures: 'A well-known supermarket is located under a mile away from the development and can be reached in as little as a 20-minute walk. Alternatively, The Creedy Centre in central Crediton and the Princesshay shopping centre in Exeter provide residents of Libbets Grange with plenty of choice for retail therapy.'

There won't be a café, pub or restaurant within the development, but 'Local pubs and restaurants are particularly abundant around the development, which is an especially attractive prospect for food lovers'.

However, countering the developer's rosy picture of (car-dependent) local living, there was in April 2022 a fierce letter to The Courier, jointly and in opposition, from Crediton architects David Treadaway, Edward Holden and Rob Rickie. They decried Libbets Grange as an 'island' development *'not close enough to Crediton and way too far from the village of Sandford.'* It would be *'a disaster on many levels.'* They wrote: *'It is isolated, with no services or even a shop. In effect, it would be a new small village without a heart, stranded in what is currently beautiful open countryside.'*

Discussing the impact of increased traffic, the letter continued: *'All shopping from this new estate would involve hundreds of vehicle movements, often through existing narrow lanes, either by residents' cars or numerous home delivery vans. The impact of these journeys on the town's already overstretched parking would be considerable'.*

As an insight into the planning process, The Courier also printed words attributed to a member of Mid Devon's Planning department. What did he think of the proposed new estate? one of the architects had asked. *'Between you and me,'* came the officer's reply, *'it's pretty poor . . . but it's not quite poor enough for us to refuse.'*

When the new home-owners move in, the question will be what steps the twin communities of Crediton and Sandford will take to welcome and integrate their new neighbours. Local councils and other organisations may need to give some serious consideration to the matter, and not just for the sake of Libbets Grange home-owners. This development, like Tarka View previously, is just one of a number of intended housing schemes which will greatly increase our local population over the next few years - a level of rapid growth never before experienced in our small town of 8,000 or so people.

Pedlarspool/Libbets Grange is not (technically) in Crediton, as it lies outside our boundaries in the parish of Sandford. Let's hope this does not stop our local town council and other organisations reaching out to the new 'island' community. One town councillor has already suggested incorporating the development under Crediton's political jurisdiction - perhaps to enjoy the additional council tax it will generate for town council coffers? But what would Sandford Parish Council think about this?



Digger, gravel, earth . . . work has started to build 257 homes at Pedlarspool



Rolling countryside with a view towards Creedy Park, to the west of Pedlarspool/Libbets Grange development

Dead tree enlists woodland creatures in vain fight for survival

Attention was drawn to Exhibition Road where in late summer passers-by observed an unusual and touching display on a deceased tree by the roadside – now removed to its stump. On branches and around the base a number of soft toys stood sentinel, their presence designed to melt the heart-strings of any council operative sent to cut down the tree?

Devon County Council had posted an official notice FOR THE URGENT ATTENTION OF THE OWNER OF THIS TREE requiring the tree to be removed. However another notice tied to the trunk purported to come from the tree itself.

*"I am a tree, no one owns me.
I may look dead on the outside
but I do have feelings on the inside.
Let me be, can't you see
My fluffy people still love me."*

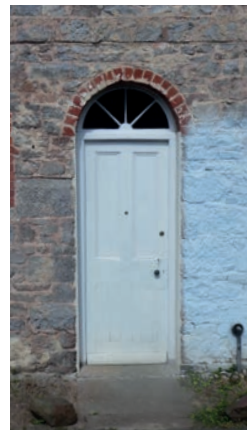
A local resident told KQ that children coming home from school enjoyed playing on the tree, and it didn't look like it was going to threaten anyone anytime soon. *"It may be dead, but it's still a home for creatures"*, she said. *"There's surely no need to chop it down for a while yet."*

EPITAPH: Sadly -or sensibly – the tree was cut down during the autumn, leaving a forlorn group of former guardians to lament its passing.



MONTAGE OF LOCAL FEATURES

Perception of Doors



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Wine, Beer, Cocktails



THE DUKE OF YORK

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CHRISTMAS AT CCC

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Christmas on the Square

Sunday 15th December at 10.30am

Community Lunch

Friday 20th December at noon

Please book via Church office

Carols in the courtyard

Sunday 22nd December at 5pm

Any questions about any of
our events email

admin@credition.church

or call 01363 772577

We meet at 10.30am every Sunday
the Church at the bottom of St Saviour's Way



Christmas comes but once a year . . . but it sure comes round often enough. Some people find the approach of the festive season more stressful as the 25th December gets closer (it's Wednesday this year) and it feels suddenly like you have no choice but conform to the 'traditional' round of family gatherings, feasting and gift-giving.

As much as you agreed last year with friends and family never again to yield to commercial pressure to spend out like there's no next year, it gets impossible to resist and the brain starts to seize up and lose its imaginative edge . . .

So, here's some suggestions to mitigate the situation.

1.

A lot of Christmas anticipation is in the wrapping paper. If you're going to buy sheets of lovely wrapping paper, make it nice quality, then you may be able to use it again. Tissue paper is nice, but newspaper will do the job quite well, or you could even buy a pack of white paper from the fish 'n' chip shop if you ask nicely. An alternative is you could order a big roll of brown wrapping paper (sorry, probably on-line). It will last the whole of your life and will come in handy for future gift-giving. And a ball of string & sellotape (from Post Office). Need to buy new cardboard boxes, large quantities of bubble-pack, brown tape? Get it from Rose Removals at Lapford.

2.

Don't go mad buying stocks of food & drink. You won't be snowed in for days on

end, and convenience shops will open the next day. Or get Creedy Kitchen in advance to sell you a tray of chocolate brownies, or The Sandwich Shop to make you a nice big quiche. Grape & Grain will make you up a case of wine & fortified drinks without you even having to choose them: you'll either consume the lot during the festive season, or you can raid the box for alcoholic gifts.) Or a 3L pouch of Devon Scrumpy from Sandford Orchards. If you're making a Christmas cake or pudding, take the recipe to Lyn at Stevie B's and she'll have the ingredients ready for you the next day. *NB: You don't need to buy food things if people really don't like them – parsnips, sprouts, brandy sauce or plastic boxes of Ferrero Rochers, dates or brazil nuts - just because it's Christmas.*

3.

Shop in Crediton. Then you won't have to grumble about traffic, car-parks or parking tickets in Exeter, and you won't be worrying whether on-line orders will actually arrive in time. Crediton shops will be pleased to have your business - and they need it – and you'll get that nice warm feeling of doing your bit for the local community. *(By the way, did you know Four Seasons greengrocer's sells local honey and has both frozen and smoked fish?)*

And there's a lot more locally that is suitable for Xmas presents than you might think. A small radio from Lewis's? a kitchen gadget from Adams? a leather purse from Crediton Cobbler? a gift set of cider from Sandford Orchards? a set of special stamps from the Post Office? A jar of something

tasty from the Green Shop? a bag of coffee beans from Crediton Coffee Shop?

BOKA has beautiful household things that you'd might not buy for yourself, but its soaps, exotic candles and room fresheners make great gifts. Mimosa has lovely clothes and accessories for women, as, of course, has A. E. Lee's for menfolk. Once Read is bound to have something interesting (and readable) in Jim's absurdly tiny shop. Kitchen@25 will make you up an enticing collection of Westcountry specialities in a presentation hamper – or make up your own. The Bookery is wonderful for both adults and children, and it doesn't just sell books. Nice calendars, local guides, jigsaws, cards and so on. How about an Asterix adventure or Rupert the Bear annual? (Yes, they're still doing them!)

For those with specialist interests and hobbies . . . some interesting accessory from The Bike Shed, swimming gear from the leisure centre? A garden tool or knee protectors from Tuckers? Riding lessons at Hunterswood (near Yeoford) for the grandchildren? Consult the fly-fishing store, Circle One (wet-suits, surf boards), the vets and dog-grooming shops, something environmentally sound from Stevie B's or The Green Shop gift shop . . .

Some local businesses are seriously tucked away but hunt them out! In the deepest reaches of Lords Meadow Ind. Estate, Symons agricultural store has some warm branded apparel, and models of farm machinery. Go on-line and get a beautiful house-plant delivered from Leaf Culture

(based at Lords Meadow). And a case of single-variety apple juice from Little Emlett (grown in an orchard at Black Dog).

4.

Vouchers are not a cop-out! Pretty much any local shop will be pleased to sell you a voucher to spend in their store. We're used to book tokens, but how about a voucher for the green-grocer, Stevie B's, the flower shop or a café, restaurant, pub or wine bar, or glittering bracelet from Valerie Barker's jewellery shop. How about a garment-making course at The Makers' Boutique on North Street? Do your friend and relatives need therapy? A little beauty treatment or foot massage could make a nice start to 2025 – head to the Creedy Centre or North Street.

5.

Activities as a gift. Crediton's full of organisations, exercise and sports clubs, choirs and other musical and dramatic activity. Buy them their membership for next year – just so long as they want it, mind you, and it won't be wasted.

6.

Or just something really crazy. How about one of those big pastel-coloured ceramic gnomes at Springfield Emporium? An overnight B&B at Motovelo? Or just go ultra-practical: a year's supply of washing powder, loo-roll or cat-food?

7.

On a tight budget? Find an interesting container of some sort at Refurbish (or other charity shop) and fill it with sweets or something you have made. You could buy an old frame there and fill it with a picture



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you've done yourself, or a nice photo you've taken and printed out at the library. While you're there draw your own Xmas cards and photocopy them on the library's photocopier: the library can sell you A4-size card, and you can use the guillotine for free. If you're clever, you may even be able to pick up a Xmas tree cheaply from the parish church, once its Christmas Tree Festival is over. Get a second-hand jig-saw puzzle - but not too many pieces, or people may get bored with it.

8.

For more mature couples who don't need to exchange anything any more to prove their love, browse this issue of KQ for long-lasting investments you'll both feel the benefit from. A kitchen make-over? A stair-lift installation? A new lawn-mower? A year's supply of Sunday lunches delivered to you by The Ship? A bottle of sparkling wine and a table booked at Amapola?

9.

Christmas stockings? A key ring or shoe laces from Crediton Cobbler, an orange from Four Seasons, balloons and lots of other little things from Crediton Card Shop, stationery or toys from Adams, a small book of sayings from The Bookery, a little knitted Xmas pudding (if that nice lady in Sandford's still making them?) Perhaps a tiny statuette of St Boniface – just £3 each at the parish church!

10.

Obviously one could mention the bigger stores – Tesco, Morrison's, Mole Avon, Homeleigh Garden Centre – but they can look after themselves, can't they. Good luck

anyway. See you in the pub after church on Christmas morning?

New Year's Eve

Late on New Year's Eve, if you're in company, you'll find yourself trying to sing Auld Lang Syne. It doesn't matter if you don't know the words since everyone around you doesn't know them either, and anyway they may have drunk too much to notice. They don't teach the song in schools, so no-one ever gets to learn the lyrics properly (the title basically means 'for old times' sake'). So, just in case . . .

*Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?*

*Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and auld lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*

LETTER

Dog poo is nasty!

Word on the Street – a good phrase, but may I make a point that there is dog poo on the street too. The majority of responsible dog owners do pick up after their dogs, but we are constantly frustrated, angry and fed up with those who think leaving mess on the pavements / pathways is for others to collect. Please think of those with pushchairs, visually impaired and in wheelchairs.

There may be tooth fairies but certainly not poo fairies. Remember P.U.P. (Pick up poo). It's toxic and AGAINST THE LAW.
Name & address supplied



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QUICK QUOTE? JUST SEND SOME PICTURES

CREDITON WINTER CALENDAR

Info for next issue required by 20th Dec (covering period c15 Jan to end of April)

EVENTS: CIVIC & COMMUNITY

Tues 19 Nov & 21 January,
7.30pm

Full Council Meeting (CTC)
incl public discussions from
7pm
Old Landscore School

1st & 3rd Saturdays

Farmers Market

9.30 -1pm
Town Square

2nd Sat of month 10-12

[CUT!]

community weeding –
contact town council

4th Sat, 10-12

(NB: not December)

Repair Café

(Sus Cred)
Elephant on Green

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Sat 30 Nov, 1-6pm

Christmas in Crediton

(incl Lights Switch-On)
Town Square

Sun 15 Dec, 10.30pm

Christmas on the Square

(CCC)
Town Square

Sun 22 Dec, 6pm

Nine Lessons & Carols

Parish Church

Sun 29 Dec, 6pm

Carols by Candlelight

St Lawrence Chapel
(Threshers)

SOCIAL EVENTS

Fri 22 Nov, 7pm

Murder Mystery Evening

(Moonstone Theatre Co.)
Library

Fri 22 Nov, 8pm

Peter Hamilton Memorial Ceilidh

Sandford Village Hall

Sat 23 Nov, 10-2pm

St Nicholas Fair

(stalls selling variety of
craft, cakes etc)
Parish church

Thurs 18 Dec, 7pm

Xmas Bingo

CUFC clubhouse

Fri 20 Dec, 7.30pm

Big Christmas Quiz

(Pat Laver & friends)
Arts Centre

Tues 31 Dec, 8pm

Fairy Disco

CUFC clubhouse

Sat 8 Feb

Table Top Sale

Methodist Church

PERFORMANCES/ EXHIBITIONS/TALKS/ WORKSHOPS

Thurs 14 Nov, 7pm

Stephanie Austin

(Devon crime writer)
The Bookery

Wed 20 Nov, 2pm

Film: Downton Abbey: A

New Era

Library [B]

Wed 20 Nov, 7pm

Film: Hamlet

Library [B]

Sat 23 Nov, 7pm

Ciderhouse Rebellion

(folk duo)
Arts Centre

Thurs 5 – Sun 8 Dec, 11-
6pm

Christmas Tree Festival

(refreshments at Boniface
Centre)

Fri 6 Dec, 7.30pm

Film: The Buena Vista

Social Club

Arts Centre

Sun 8 Dec (time tbc)

Crediton Singers

Methodist Church

Fri 13 Dec, 7.30pm

Play: Bright Places

Arts Centre [B]

Sat 21 Dec, 11-1pm

West Gallery Quire

(folk carols)
Elephant on Green

Jan or Feb

(dates & venue tbc)

The Men Who Marched Away

(CODS)

Mon 13 Jan, 7.30pm

Talk: Roman Roads in the South West

(CAHMS)
Boniface Ctre

Fri 24 Jan & 21 Feb

Cider-making tour/ tasting/pizza

Sandford Orchards,
Commonmarsh Lane [B]

Fri 7 Feb, 7.30pm

Caoilfionn Rose (singer)

Arts Centre [B]

Sat 15 Feb, 6pm

St John Passion

(oratorio by J S Bach: see
also Word on the Street)
Parish church [B]

OUTDOORS ACTIVITY

1st Sun of month

Sunday Walk

(CCC)

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Mon 17 Feb, 10-4pm

Craft Activities (yrs 5+)

The Bookery [B]

Sat 22 Feb, 2.30pm

The Great Baldini

(magic show)
Arts Centre [B]

REGULAR ENTERTAINMENT

1st Wed, 7pm

Games Night

Café @100, High Street

1st Thurs of month, 6.30pm

Jazz on the Green

(jazz combo/Sri Lankan buffet: advance booking only) Arts Centre [B]

1st Thurs, 7.30pm

Open Mic Night

Three Little Pigs

3rd Thurs, 7.30pm

Moon Jazz Club

Three Little Pigs

1st & 3rd Fri, 7.30pm

[not December]

Curious Cinema Club

Elephant on Green

Sundays, 7-10pm

Jazz, Blues Jam or Acoustic nights

Red Deer

Last Fri, 7pm

Open Mic

@100 Café

1st Sun, 6-9pm

Trev the Pianoman

Crediton Inn

2nd Fri of month, 7pm

Open Mic Night

Elephant on Green

Last Fri of month, 7pm

Open Mic Night

@100 Cafe

REGULAR SOCIAL EVENTS

Tues, 10-11.30am

Tuesday Drop-In

(coffee social)

Boniface Centre

Wed, 10am-12

Causeway (coffee social, esp for those with learning disabilities, carers etc)

CCC

Wed monthly

Crediton Probus

(lunch & invited talk)

Red Lion, Shobrooke [B]

Thurs, 10-11.30am

Coffee & Company

(esp older residents) CCC

Fridays (until Easter)

Community Lunch

CCC

Sat, 10am

Together4Coffee

Methodist Church

SPORTS FIXTURES

Crediton Rugby Club,

creditonrfc.rfu.club

Exhibition Road

Crediton United AFC

(football)

fulltime.thefa.com/

Lords Meadow

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Cross Parish Church

9.30am

Choral Evensong 1st Sun,

6pm

Congregational Church

(CCC) 10.30am

Methodist Church

10.30am

St Boniface R.C. Church

9.30am

SCHOOL DATES

QE Academy

Autumn term

Non-pupil day: Mon 9 Dec;

Last day of term: Fri 20

Dec

Spring term 2025

Term starts: Mon 6 Jan;

Half term: Mon 17 – Fri 21

Feb; Non-pupil day: Mon 24

March; Last day of term: Fri

4 April

Haywards Primary

Autumn term

Last day of term: Fri 20 Dec

Spring term 2025

Non-pupil day: Mon 6 Jan;

Term starts: Tues 7 Jan; Half

term: Mon 17 – Fri 21 Feb;

Last day of term: Fri 4 April

Landscore Primary

Autumn term

Last day of term: Fri 20 Dec

Spring term

Term starts: Tues 7 Jan; Half

term: Mon 17 – Fri 21 Feb;

Last day of term: Fri 4 April

NB: This is by no means a comprehensive listings service. Readers are recommended to sign up to mailing lists or social media pages for any/all of the above venues and/or organisations.

See also *Crediton Courier's* Kirton Raiser events diary, published Thurs weekly.

NB: booking may be required for some events – please check! Events include free or drop-in events as well as those with admission charge

Abbreviations

CAHMS = Crediton Area

History & Museum Society

CCC = Crediton

Congregational Church

CTC = Crediton Town Council

CYT = Crediton Youth Theatre

SBCS = St Boniface Concert

Society

Sus Cred = Sustainable

Crediton

Useful websites

crediton.gov.uk/Your-Council/Meetings

u3asites.org.uk/crediton/home

creditoninandaround.co.uk

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Heart

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DOG 'U' LIKE



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Florentina, Siberian Samoyed, 2 years old

Quiz!! (p. 18) Answers

- 1 High Street, Old Town Hall: inscription reads Anno Decimo Quinto Victoriae Reginae MDCCCLII (= in the fifteenth year of Queen Victoria 1852)
- 2 Belle Parade, plaque on BT Exchange (with partly eroded date 1958)
- 3 High Street, plaque on no. 31 (south side)
- 4 Church Street, Libbets Well at the end of private lane (public footpath)
- 5 Crediton Library, on rear wall overlooking Newcombes Meadow
- 6 Charlotte Street, junction with Peep Lane (runs through to Mill Street)
- 7 Mill Street, notice on wall of Refurbish charity store
- 8 Church Lane, notice outside Crediton Dairy
- 9 Crediton Railway Station, station building on Platform 1
- 10 High Street, sign on Old Town Hall behind bus shelter
- 11 Salmonhutch, notice next to (unmanned) level crossing
- 12 Church Street, sign on eastern entrance to Newcombes Meadow

**Bonus Quiz
Question:**
where's this one?



This friendly metal figure welcomes
visitors to South West Galvanisers on
Marsh End, Lords Meadow Ind. Estate

Seashore – design by Esme Cooper, printed on linen napkin



Esme writes: *I am a textile designer and I screen print onto natural fabrics using dyes. I make my fabrics into table runners, napkins, lampshades and other textile items. I also screen print my own ceramic decals that I fire onto mugs and make ceramic specimen boxes.*

I work with private clients creating site-specific pieces such as wall hangings, blinds and curtains. I've always been inspired by the shapes and colours found in nature, taking the details found in natural forms into my work.

I work as a tutor at The Double Elephant Print Workshop in Exeter, am a member of Make Southwest and have work in a number of galleries. You can find me in my studio just off the High Street in Crediton – and my work locally at the Sandford Craft Fair on Nov 16th!



R E S I D E N T I A L

R U R A L



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